

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows.

Please cancel claims 7, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 19, 20 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 12, 14, 18 and 21-24 were previously canceled. A status of all pending and canceled claims is provided.

1 (currently amended). Apparatus for displaying finger patterns of a stringed instrument having a fingerboard, the apparatus comprising:

a baseboard having thereon a pattern of chromatic notes, each note positioned in the same relative position as it appears on the fingerboard of the stringed instrument; ~~and~~

a plurality of templates for placement over the baseboard, each template corresponding to at least one particular key in a particular position and defining a plurality of holes through which notes corresponding to the particular key are visible;

a base having thereon a plurality of color-coded bars extending radially outward from a center of the base, each bar corresponds to a finger pattern of the stringed instrument and the arrangement of the bars corresponds to the cyclic nature of finger patterns on the fingerboard of the stringed instrument; and

a plurality of key signatures with positions adjacent to each bar.

2. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each template can be releasably secured to the baseboard to represent twelve different major and minor keys in more than seven different positions.

3. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein all of the templates can be simultaneously and releasably secured to the baseboard.

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4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded in a pre-determined pattern.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the templates are color-coded in a sequence corresponding to at least a partial spectrum of a rainbow.

7. (canceled)

7. ~~8~~ (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein each bar corresponds to a finger pattern codon.

8. ~~9~~ (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~8~~ 7, wherein each finger pattern ~~code~~ codon is a combination of four letters, and corresponding to a finger pattern to be used to play notes for twelve major keys in their corresponding positions.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (previously canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (previously canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (previously canceled)

19. (canceled)

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20. (canceled)  
21. (previously canceled)  
22. (previously canceled)  
23. (previously canceled)  
24. (previously canceled)

**25.**<sup>9.</sup> (previously added) Apparatus for displaying finger patterns of a stringed instrument having a fingerboard, the apparatus comprising:

a baseboard having thereon a pattern of chromatic notes, each note positioned in the same relative position as it appears on the fingerboard of the stringed instrument;

a plurality of templates for placement over the baseboard, each template corresponding to at least one particular key in a particular position and defining a plurality of holes through which notes corresponding to the particular key are visible;

a base having thereon a plurality of color-coded bars extending radially outward from a center of the base, each bar corresponds to a finger pattern of the stringed instrument and the arrangement of the bars corresponds to the cyclic nature of finger patterns on the fingerboard of the stringed instrument; and

a plurality of key signatures with positions adjacent to each bar,

wherein each bar corresponds to a finger pattern codon comprising a combination of four letters, and corresponding to a finger pattern used to play notes for twelve major and minor keys in their corresponding positions,

wherein four of the letters are taken from a set of seven letters h, m, l, O, H, M, L, and wherein:

- h** as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;  
**m** as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;

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- B'
- I as half step (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degrees of note in a major scale) to be played by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;
  - O as all four fingers are spread out with whole steps (degrees of note 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in a major scale) in between a tetrachord;
  - H as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord;
  - M as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord; and
  - L as half step (the 7<sup>th</sup> and upper tonic notes in a major scale) to be played by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers, the rests are whole steps in a tetrachord.

26. (canceled)

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